

Peace Officers Association. He worked for the statewide organization representing the 33,000 men and women who worked in the state's correctional facilities. For over twenty years, Mr. Corcoran served as a union officer for the California Department of Corrections. Starting out as a Correctional Officer at Susanville in 1986, he was quickly promoted due to his commitment to improving the California correctional facilities and the lives of his fellow Peace Officers.

In 1994, Mr. Corcoran served as the President of the California Correctional Center Chapter within the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and also served on the Board of Directors. His leadership and determination not only made the California Correctional Peace Officer Association one of the largest and most prestigious law enforcement associations in the state but also made it highly influential. He continued to improve the Association by serving two terms as the Executive Vice President for the California Correctional Officers Association.

Mr. Corcoran directed the legislative operation of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association as the Chief of Governmental Affairs in 2005 before taking on the position of Chief Communications Officer for the Association. Not only was Mr. Corcoran an advocate for the rights of Peace Officers but also for the families impacted by crime. Mr. Corcoran was an active member of the California Crime Victims Coalition and served on the advisory board for the Doris Tate Crime Victims Bureau.

The passion of Mr. Corcoran to represent the California Correctional Peace Officers Association was unrelenting. He actively worked with determination to protect the rights of the men and women who worked for the California Department of Corrections. Few people have the passion and determination that Mr. Corcoran had. Mr. Corcoran always had a smile on his face and had an unparalleled sense of humor. He was not only an advocate for the Peace Officers, but was also their friend. He worked diligently and with compassion to ensure that all California Corrections Officers were treated fairly. Mr. Corcoran has left an influential impact on the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and on the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Corcoran for his service and dedication to the California Department of Corrections and to the State of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Lance Corcoran.

IN HONOR OF AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
COREY C. OWENS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot who died in service to this great country. On February 17, 2011, Airman 1st Class Corey C. Owens, USAF, died of a non-combat related incident at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

Airman 1st Class Owens, 26, of San Antonio, Texas, was assigned to the 47th Security

Forces Squadron, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, and was on his second deployment to southwest Asia. His father resides in Story, Arkansas.

Although I never had the honor of meeting Airman 1st Class Owens, it is clear by the outpouring of praise from his colleagues, friends and family that he was well liked and well respected by all who knew him. In fact, local news reported that when Laughlin Air Base held a memorial service on February 28, they had trouble finding a space large enough.

Airman 1st Class Owens is survived by his current wife, Misty Owens; his two daughters, Xiya and Xoe Owens from his first marriage; his father, Steve Owens of Story, Ark.; his mother, Chris Owens of Springfield, Ill.; two sisters, Ann Kusterbeck of Princeton, Tex., and Sandra Owens of Springfield, Ill.; two uncles, two aunts, two nieces, one nephew and several cousins.

When we think of true heroes, we think of brave Americans like Airman 1st Class Owens who risk everything to defend freedom and serve this great country. We will always be grateful for his selfless sacrifice and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents and the rest of his family and friends during this very difficult time. We are who we are as a nation because of patriots like Airman 1st Class Owens.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Airman 1st Class Corey Owens and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MOTORCOACH ENHANCED SAFETY ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act.

Four years ago, a horrific accident occurred in my congressional district when a bus carrying the Bluffton University men's baseball team crashed on Interstate 75 in Atlanta, Georgia, en route to a tournament in Florida.

Twenty-nine people were injured on that terrible day, but seven others—Zachary Arend, David Betts, Scott Harmon, Cody Holp, Tyler Williams and Jean and Jerome Niemeyer died that terrible day. They were all treated at various hospitals—Atlanta Medical Center, Piedmont Hospital, and Grady Memorial Hospital.

The entire nation was shocked by the tragedy, and I was floored when my office received a phone call from one of the surgeons who treated the victims. Dr. Jeffrey Salomone, an Associate Professor of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, and Deputy Chief of Surgery at Grady Hospital was outraged. He felt that the injuries would have been less severe, and that more lives may have been saved had the victims not been ejected from the motorcoach bus. It was an accident that had been seen time and time again in emergency rooms across the country,

and Dr. Salomone couldn't understand why the government had not acted.

Well last year, Congress almost did. The sponsors of the Senate-companion to this legislation—Sens. SHERROD BROWN and KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON—worked tirelessly to move the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act through the Committee process and onto the Floor. In the House, the Chairmen of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee expressed interest and empathy on this issue. Secretary LaHood coordinated discussion groups and drafted a preliminary proposal to address motorcoach safety.

Simply said, Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to act. This bill addresses the most common-sense of issues and has always enjoyed bipartisan support. The U.S. used to be a leader on safety and standards issues, but now we're falling behind. The proposals laid out in this legislation bring our nation's motorcoach industry into the 21st century. I hope that all my colleagues will cosponsor this important bill, and that the victims and their families will celebrate its signage into law this year.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK/ PEACE CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to honor the Peace Corps during this National Peace Corps Week.

I would also like to thank Congressman GARAMENDI, a returned Peace Corps volunteer himself, for his leadership in organizing this special order on this historic occasion.

Today, March 1, 2011 the Peace Corps celebrates its 50th anniversary. It is with the historic contributions of this organization in mind, that I proudly acknowledge the important work of more than two hundred thousand Peace Corps volunteers since the agency's inception in 1961.

It is not surprising that year in and year out Americans are eager to do even more. While more than 13,000 Americans apply annually to serve their country in Peace Corps, serious budget constraints provide placements for roughly 30 percent of applicants.

President Obama has rightly called for doubling the size of the Peace Corps in order to meet this demand, as well as the overwhelming need for additional volunteers around the globe.

This is a pledge that we must keep.

I am proud to report that California has been and continues to be the largest producer of Peace Corps volunteers with more than 1,100 people currently serving abroad.

My home District, California's 9th Congressional District, can be called home by more than 20 current volunteers who have committed themselves to the Peace Corps mission of world peace and friendship through service.

The University of California, Berkeley located in my district has consistently received top or near top honors for producing the most Peace Corps Volunteers, producing 92 volunteers in 2010 alone.

In fact, UC Berkeley has contributed over 3,400 volunteers to the Peace Corps Program since 1961.